

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 AF-04 IO-06 SP-02  
PM-03 NSCE-00 H-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00  
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-----014939 301835Z /64

O R 301716Z MAY 78  
FM USINT HAVANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2048  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1458

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, MILI, XA, CU  
SUBJECT: CUBANS DO NOT RESPOND TO PRESIDENT

1. NEITHER CUBAN OFFICIALS HERE NOR CUBAN MEDIA HAVE RESPONDED DIRECTLY (AS OF TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 30) TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAY 25 STATMENT THAT ANGOLA BEARS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHABA INVASION AND THAT CUBANS TRAINED INVADERS. THIS UNACCUSTOMED RESTRAINT COMES ONLY ONE WEEK AFTER CUBAN OFFICIALS PRIVATELY TOLD US THAT PUBLIC CONTRADICTION OF CASTRO'S ASSURANCES OF NON-INVOLVEMENT WOULD BE A "SERIOUS MATTER".

2. HERE IN HAVANA, NEITHER MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS NOR ANY OTHER CUBAN OFFICIAL HAS RAISED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS WITH USINT. AS FOR MEDIA, ONLY MENTION OF PRESIDENT'S DECLARATION IS ONE LINE IN MAY 28 JUVENTUD REBELDE AND MAY 29 GRANMA WHICH STATES THAT CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, AT NEW YORK LUNCHEON FOR NON-ALIGNED SSOD DELEGATIONS, REFUTED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS, ASSERTING THAT THEY "ABSOLUTELY DO NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE TRUTH; AS THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED, THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA...  
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DOES NOT HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CONNECTION, DIRECT OR INDIRECT - INCLUDING MILITARY TRAINING - WITH THE EVENTS IN SHABA."

3. GRANMA, MAY 30, ADDS TO THIS THAT RODRIGUEZ DISCUSSED "WELL-KNOWN" CUBAN POSITION ON SHABA WITH KURT WALDHEIM, MAY 29, AND HELD TALKS, MAY 29, WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREY GROMYKO ON "DANGEROUS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN UNLEASEHED

BY VARIOUS OFFICIALS MEANS AND AMERICAN JOURNALISTS THAT  
FALSIFIES POSITIONS OF CUBAN AND SOVIET UNION IN AFRICA."

4. GRANMA EDITORIAL (SIGNED, AND, THEREFORE, OF LOW AUTHOR-  
ITATIVENESS), MAY 29, WITHOUT REFERRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER  
BY NAME, SEEKS TO COMPARE 1964 TONKIN GULF RESOLUTUION WITH  
CURRENT EFFORTS IN US TO STUDY LEGISLATIVE RESTRAINTS ON  
EXECUTIVE ACTION IN FORIENG POLICY. MORE IN SORROW THAN  
ANGER, EDITORIAL SECONDS CALL OF SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN  
FOR A US FOREIGN POLICY "ADEQUATE TO TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE."  
EDITORIAL DOES, HOWEVER, INVOKE THREAT OF SOVIET MAILED  
FIST BY STATING THAT THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING TO PUSH FRONTIERS  
OF NATO INTO AFRICA AND ASIA RUN RISK OF CREATING A "NUCLEAR  
VIET-NAM".

5. COMMENT: CUBANS APPARENTLY WISH TO PORTRAY THEMSELVES  
AS AN AGGRIEVED PARTY, HOPING THAT THEIR AVOIDANCE OF  
OPEN BELLIGERENCE WILL FACILITATE EFFORTS OF CONGRESSIONAL  
DOVES TO REVIVE UNPLEASANT MEMORIES OF VIET-NAM. WE BELIEVE  
THAT CUBANS ARE GENUINELY CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE THREAT  
TO THEIR FORCES IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IN ANGOLA, RESULTING  
FROM CURRENT US STUDY OF LEGISLATIVE CONSTRAINTS ON  
EXECUTIVE BRANCH. WE NOTE THAT ANGOLAN COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION,  
MAY 28, ORDERED "REINFORCEMENT OF MILITARY DEFENSE OF COUNTRY,  
ACCELERATING ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPPING OF SECURITY AND ARMED FORCES,  
AS WELL AS PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS" AND CALLED FOR  
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"COMBATTING WITH VIGOR ANY MANIFESTATION OF DOMESTIC COUNTER-  
REVOLUTION AND TIGHTENING LINKS OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE  
PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES." IF IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT US WILL  
NOT, OR CANNOT, ACT, HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THAT ANY SALUTARY  
CAUTION IMPOSED ON CASTRO BY THE SHABA ACTION AND THE  
PRESIDENT'S RECENT STATEMENT WILL LIKELY FADE. THAT IS,  
WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE THREAT TO FREEZE CUBAN-US NORMAL-  
IZATION CARRIES MUCH WEIGHT HERE, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN.  
GLASSMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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